



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 17, 2008

**In matters prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia:**

## **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THEFT OF GOVERNMENT BENEFITS**

CHARLESTON, WV – United States Attorney Charles T. Miller announced, "today, my office has presented and the grand jury has returned three indictments charging relatives of beneficiaries of government programs with fraudulently taking the benefits after the death of the beneficiary." With the indictments, Miller announced an initiative to combat the theft of government benefits. "I want to be perfectly clear: if you are caught stealing benefits, you will be prosecuted."

As apparent from the indictments handed down today, theft of government funds is not isolated to one program or agency. The indictments charge theft of benefits from the United States Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration and the Railroad Retirement Board. "Many people rely on these benefits. Each of these agencies have dedicated Special Agents charged with investigating theft of the funds they administer, and with my office, we are united in combating the threat to these programs and the beneficiaries they serve," Miller added.

**Brenda Kay Newton, also known as Brenda Kay Mills, 51, of Chesapeake, OH** is charged with theft of government benefits from the United States Railroad Retirement Board, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641. **Newton** is exposed to 10 years in prison, 3 years supervised release, a \$250,000 fine and restitution.

**Cynthia L. Lambert, also known as Cynthia L. Myers, 48, of St. Albans, WV** is charged with theft of government benefits from the United States Department of Defense, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641. **Lambert** is exposed to 10 years in prison, 3 years supervised release, a \$250,000 fine and restitution.

**Roberta H. Smith, 67, and Mary H. Hill, 65, both of Charleston, WV** are charged with theft of government benefits from the United States Social Security Administration, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641. **Smith** and **Hill** are each exposed to 10 years in prison, 3 years supervised release, a \$250,000 fine and restitution.

\*PLEASE NOTE: An indictment is merely a formal accusation, it is not proof of guilt and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless they are found guilty.